

that it is imperative that we continue to spread the word that no amount of alcohol is safe to consume during the 9 months of pregnancy. By continuing to raise awareness, we can hopefully minimize the harm that drinking during pregnancy causes our most vulnerable population—our children.

In February of 1999, a small group of parents, raising children afflicted with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, set out to change the world. That small group started a support group which quickly became a worldwide grassroots movement to observe September 9 as International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day. This year, for the eighth consecutive year, events are occurring in cities and towns not just across the country but around the world.

In my State of Alaska, I am proud that events are occurring in Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks. Citizens from my State are raising awareness about the dangers of drinking during pregnancy through a variety of events, such as passing out brochures with preventative messages to physicians' offices, delivering cocktail napkins to area bars with a message stamped on them that reminds pregnant women to not drink, and conducting high school assemblies which teach students about the dangers of alcohol on the developing fetus.

As we all know, FASD is 100 percent preventable, yet it remains a leading cause of nonhereditary mental retardation in the United States. Many children affected by maternal drinking during pregnancy have irreversible conditions—including severe brain damage—that cause permanent, lifelong disability.

Every year in America, an estimated 1 in every 100 babies is born with FASD—that is 40,000 infants. FASD affects more children than Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, spina bifida and muscular dystrophy combined.

In Alaska, we sadly continue to have the highest rate of FASD in the Nation. Approximately 163 Alaskan babies are born each year affected by maternal alcohol use during pregnancy. Among our Native communities, the rate of FASD can be 15 times higher than non-Native areas in the State.

Despite these troubling figures, FASD is still widely under diagnosed, misdiagnosed, or not diagnosed at all. Diagnosis is critical because many persons with FASD can overcome learning and behavioral problems and succeed but only with appropriate health, social, and educational resources.

The cost of FASD is high—more than \$3 billion each year in direct health care costs. The indirect financial and social costs are also great—including the cost of specialized health care, education, job training, and general support services.

That is why prevention is so imperative. Prevention of FASD is seven times more cost effective than treating the disorder. But more importantly,

abstaining from alcohol during pregnancy will save a family a lifetime of heartache and will prevent the greatest loss of all that of human potential.

Senator TIM JOHNSON and I have introduced the Advancing FASD Research, Prevention, and Services Act. Our bill will develop targeted State and community-based outreach programs and will improve current support services for families who are living with FASD. It will also improve coordination among Federal agencies involved in FASD treatment and research by establishing stronger communication with these programs. Lastly, it will strengthen educational outreach efforts to doctors, teachers, judges, and others whose work puts them in contact with people with FASD. I ask my colleagues to support the Advancing FASD, Research, Prevention and Services Act.

Mr. President, tomorrow, on Fetal Alcohol Awareness Day, let us pause to remember the innocent babies inflicted with this disorder and then let us imagine the potential that these babies could have attained but for the damage done by alcohol.

CONGRESS MUST STRENGTHEN WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, as a conferee to the fiscal year 2007 National Defense Authorization Act, I urge my fellow conferees to retain the Senate's strong whistleblower protections for federal employees. The Senate bill includes an amendment I offered with Senator COLLINS that mirrors our bipartisan measure, S. 494, the Federal Employee Protection of Disclosures Act. S. 494 and the amendment have strong bipartisan support in the Senate. In the House, Representatives TOM DAVIS and HENRY WAXMAN, the chairman and ranking member of the House Government Reform Committee, and Representative TODD PLATTS, the sponsor of companion legislation to S. 494, have asked Representative DUNCAN HUNTER, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, to include strong whistleblower protections in the final defense authorization bill.

The Senate action was a significant step forward for Federal whistleblowers and the American taxpayer. Congress must assert its original intent of the Whistleblower Protection Act, WPA, which protects Federal employees who disclose any waste, fraud, and abuse. Congress encourages such disclosures, which save lives and taxpayer dollars, and has repeatedly said that the courts should not erect barriers to disclosures which limit the flow of information from Federal employees who may have knowledge of government wrongdoing.

We have all heard of the brave men and women who have come forward at great personal risk to report cases of waste and threats to public safety. Examples include: Mr. Richard Foster, Medicare's chief actuary, who disclosed to Congress that the actual cost of the

Medicare reform bill was \$156 billion more than what the Bush administration told us. He was prohibited by his supervisors from alerting Congress to this huge discrepancy prior to the bill's enactment and was threatened with firing if he did so; U.S. Border Patrol Agents Mark Hall and Bob Lindemann, who disclosed security lapses along our northern border, including a lack of staff, equipment, and detention facilities. As a result, their supervisors proposed 90-day suspensions and demotions for 1 year; and Mr. Donald Van Winkle, an air-monitoring technician at the Bluegrass Army Depot in Kentucky, who revealed serious operational failures with monitors used to detect leaks of chemical warfare agents. As a result of this disclosure, Mr. Van Winkle lost his security clearance, thus denying him the ability to continue his job. Unfortunately, current law does not provide any independent review for this type of retaliation.

This spring, the Supreme Court ruled that the first amendment does not protect public sector employees, including Federal workers, from retaliation when disclosing government wrongdoing as a part of their official duties. Instead, the Court held that protection is left to State and Federal whistleblower laws. Unfortunately, Federal whistleblower protections have been watered-down by repeated decisions by the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals which ignore clear congressional intent that disclosures are protected without restriction to time, place, form, motive, or context, including disclosures made during the ordinary course of an employee's job.

As a result of various court decisions, honest employees have been denied protection from retaliatory practices. In fact, only one federal whistleblower has won on the merits of their claim before the Federal Circuit in the past 12 years. This egregious lack of employee protection has a serious chilling effect on good faith whistleblowing. Although President Bush issued a memo in 2001 requiring Federal employees to disclose waste, fraud, and abuse, the decisions of the Supreme Court and the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals have eroded protections for disclosures and placed Federal workers in a no-win situation. Congress must take action now to restore the protections granted by the WPA.

My amendment will: clarify congressional intent that Federal employees are protected for any disclosure of waste, fraud, or abuse—including those made as part of an employee's job duties; provide an independent determination as to whether the loss or denial of a security clearance is retaliation against a whistleblower; and suspend the Federal Circuit's sole jurisdiction over Federal employee whistleblower cases for 5 years.

Congress has the responsibility to guarantee strong and meaningful protections for Federal whistleblowers.

Federal employees must know they will not face retaliation when disclosing information that protects our national security, safeguards the health of our children, or saves taxpayer dollars.

If Congress is serious about eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse, and ensuring that the government for the people and by the people actually is working in the best interests of the people, then we must protect those who wish to disclose illegal or unethical activities. Whistleblowers should not be restrained because they fear retaliation for doing what is right.

Again, I thank my Senate colleagues for supporting this important measure, and I urge our House counterparts to join with us in strengthening whistleblower protections.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING POLICE CHIEF GARY MARTIN

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to retired Lake County Sheriff's Department police chief Gary Martin for his decades of dedicated service to the people of northwest Indiana and his extraordinary kindness toward the families of fallen Hoosier police officers. It is with a heavy heart and a deep sense of gratitude that I honor the life of Chief Martin, who was killed on August 22 on Indiana 63 when he was struck by an automobile while participating in a charity bike ride to benefit the families of fellow officers who have died in the line of duty. Gary's dedication to the families of our State kept him involved in public service up until his death, doing his part to comfort and support Hoosiers as they confront the loss of a loved one. I know that he will be greatly missed.

Gary was a good and decent man who dedicated his life to serving others. From his work with the sheriff's department to his involvement in the community, his career and retirement were filled with acts of conscientious service on behalf of friends, family members, and Hoosiers across Indiana. The contributions he made touched countless lives, and he will be sorely missed.

Gary was a 25-year veteran of the Gary Police Department, where he attained the rank of assistant chief. He was appointed chief of the Lake County Sheriff's Department in 2002. And for the past three decades, Gary taught criminal justice at Indiana University Northwest. He devoted all of his energy to protecting and serving his community and to caring for his colleagues and their families in their time of need. He is survived by his wife Olga and two children, Greg and Jennifer.

Like all of his colleagues in law enforcement, Chief Martin made daily sacrifices to ensure the safety of our streets, our neighborhoods, and our families. In an increasingly dangerous

world, we depend on our brave men and women like Gary to protect us from violence and other threats to our communities.

A lifelong Hoosier, he was also involved in numerous other public safety projects, including working to create a pilot program with Gary schools that sought to assure parents that their children would get to school, attend school, and return home safely. Lake County sheriff Rogelio "Roy" Domiguez recalled Martin's leadership and warmth, saying "Gary was a friend and a mentor to everyone in law enforcement and our entire community. He will be greatly missed by the thousands of students, police officers and others who simply call him 'friend'." It is a rare man who can make such an impact on so many people over the course of one life. Hoosiers will miss Gary as a friend, a community leader, and a tireless public servant.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Gary Martin in the official RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to the State of Indiana.●

HONORING INDIANA STATE POLICE LIEUTENANT GARY DUDLEY

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I today pay tribute to Indiana State Police Lieutenant Gary Dudley for his decades of dedicated service to the people of Indiana and his extraordinary kindness toward the families of fallen Hoosier police officers. It is with a heavy heart and a deep sense of gratitude that I honor the life of Lieutenant Dudley, who was killed on August 22 when he was struck by an automobile while participating in a charity bike ride to benefit the families of his fellow officers who have died in the line of duty. Gary's dedication to the families of our State kept him involved in public service up until his death, doing his part to comfort and support Hoosiers as they confront the loss of a loved one. I know he will be greatly missed.

Gary was a good and decent man who dedicated his life to serving others. From his work at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy to his involvement in the community, his career was filled with acts of conscientious service on behalf of friends, family members, and Hoosiers across Indiana. The contributions he made touched countless lives.

Lieutenant Dudley started his State police career as a trooper in 1979 and was promoted to sergeant in 1991, when he transferred to the training division. He was appointed commander of the Indiana State Police Recruit Academy in 1993. He devoted all of his energy to protecting and serving his community and to caring for his colleagues and their families in their time of need. He is survived by his wife Carolyn, his father Orsel Dudley, and a brother, Danny Dudley.

Like all of his colleagues in law enforcement, Lieutenant Dudley made daily sacrifices to ensure the safety of our streets, our neighborhoods, and our

families. In an increasingly dangerous world, we depend on brave men like Gary to protect us from violence and other threats to our communities.

A lifelong Hoosier, he used his passion for cycling to help families of police officers who died in the line of duty. The COPS charity ride, which he started, was in its third year. Long-time friend Sergeant Dave Bursten recalled Dudley's selfless commitment to friends and strangers alike, saying "Gary was very unique, beyond the proverbial 'give you the shirt off his back.' He'd give you his pants, he'd give you his shoes, he'd give you his next to last dollar if you genuinely needed it. He was always there to help people." It is a rare man who can make such an impact on so many people over the course of one life. Hoosiers will miss Gary as a friend, a community leader, and a tireless public servant.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Gary Dudley in the official RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to the State of Indiana.

THIS 45TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate The Hospitality and Information Service, THIS, of Washington, DC, on its 45th anniversary. Since 1961 THIS volunteers have welcomed diplomats and their families to Washington, providing friendship, assistance and an understanding of Washington and the United States.

THIS is a nonprofit organization that was established in 1961 at the suggestion of Angie Biddle, then Chief of Protocol, to help the hundreds of newly arrived diplomats and their families adjust to Washington. In 1961 there were 101 Embassies with 1,200 diplomatic families. Today embassies total more than 170 with 4,000 diplomats and families in Washington. THIS' 400 volunteers provide a variety of services and programs to help diplomats and their families learn about Washington through English and seven foreign language conversation groups and a book club. Programs include forums for discussion of issues that are world-wide in scope, such as health, human rights and education. They also conduct programs on government affairs, performing arts, architecture and American history.

THIS plays an important role in welcoming foreign diplomats to Washington and has made a difference in the lives of diplomats from many countries. As just a few have said:

"I would like to thank THIS for the wonderful work that you do and for your warm and friendly attention." Miriam Barak—Israel

"I express both my pleasure and my gratitude to the THIS organization as a whole. THIS is a wonderful vehicle by which the best of America is portrayed. Such an organization can only be an influential force for good." Ann Robinson—Great Britain